



City of Fort Smith Quarterly Newsletter

January, 2009

## Ward Directors Take Oath Of Office

Preceding the January 6<sup>th</sup> board of directors meeting, Fort Smith's 4 ward directors were administered their oaths of office by Sebastian County Circuit Court Judge Harry Foltz. Each was elected to a 4-year term last year.

**Steve Tyler** was first elected director of ward 1 in a special election earlier last year. Retired from Weyerhaeuser, he's active with his neighborhood association, the Noon Kiwanis Club and his church.

Representing ward 2 is **André Good**. He's serving his first full term on the board of directors after filling a vacancy last year. Good works in dispatch operations for FedEx and is a founder of the Juneteenth Planning Commission, Inc.

**Don Hutchings** won election to his first term on the board of directors. He previously served on the Fort Smith planning commission for 6 years. Hutchings is senior pastor at Evangel Temple.

Sworn in for his second consecutive term as ward 4 director is **Bill Maddox**. He also served as ward 4 director from 1983-1988. Maddox is retired from the oil and gas industry.

The directors were accompanied by family and friends as they recited their oaths of office.

## CITY BEGINS COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Earlier this month, the City of Fort Smith launched a new community communications system to rapidly alert citizens about emergencies and to communicate other vital public service information. The system will be used for incidences such as:

- evacuation or shelter-in-place instructions following a hazardous materials spill or fire
- water service interruptions due to repair of broken mains
- delays in sanitation pick up because of inclement weather
- missing person alerts

Notifications can be made city-wide or to specific geographic areas of the city affected by a particular occurrence. For example, the entire

city may be notified of a missing child report. However, only neighborhoods affected by a water service interruption would receive that notification. The system is capable of placing up to 3 million phone calls an hour.

If no one is home, the alert message will be left on an answering machine if one is available. If there's no answer, the call will be attempted 3 more times. Alerts will generally not be sent between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. unless the information is essential for citizens' well being or safety.

All Fort Smith residences and businesses with a **published** telephone number are automatically included in the system. Residents with unlisted numbers may subscribe to the community notification system online by going to [www.fortsmithar.gov](http://www.fortsmithar.gov),

**See Community Notification, page 2**



# New District Court Judge Joins Bench

Community Notification from page 1

linking to the Connect CTY portal and registering their telephone number. TTY/TDD users should also go to this web site for additional registration requirements.

At this same web site, you can register multiple telephone numbers and e-mail addresses per location. This allows alerts to be sent to your cell phone via voice or text, the telephone of a relative in another city or state, your telephone number at work, and to your e-mail address. The telephone numbers and e-mail addresses registered via the web site are not shared with anyone else.

Residents who don't want to receive alert notifications may unsubscribe by going to the Connect CTY portal at [www.fortsmithar.gov](http://www.fortsmithar.gov) and removing their names from the data base. Once a location is unsubscribed, it won't receive any alerts until it is re-subscribed.

The community alert system won't be used for severe weather notices. You should continue relying on the outdoor warning sirens and live local media broadcasts for severe weather information.

This new notification system rapidly provides citizens with accurate and up-to-date information about essential services and emergency responses. Citizens needing more information may visit the city's web site at [www.fortsmithar.gov](http://www.fortsmithar.gov) or call the Fort Smith fire dept. at 784-2370.

## Claire Borengasser

began duties earlier this month as a district court judge in the Fort Smith division of Sebastian County District Court. She was elected to the judiciary last May to fill a new judgeship created by the state legislature.



Most recently the prosecutor for the City of Fort Smith, Borengasser holds a law degree from the University of Arkansas. She has 20 years of legal experience as a prosecutor, public defender and in private practice. As a judge, Borengasser will hear traffic and misdemeanor cases,

neighborhood code cases, small claims cases and conduct preliminary hearings for felony arrests.

Board of Directors meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m. in the Fort Smith Public Schools Service Center, 3205 Jenny Lind Rd., building B. Study sessions are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month at 12 noon at the main Fort Smith public library, 3201 Rogers Ave.

To learn of agenda information, call the city clerk's office at 784-2208. Agendas with staff reports, a summary of meeting actions and meeting minutes and audio recordings of board meetings may be found on the city's web site at [www.fortsmithar.gov](http://www.fortsmithar.gov). Click on government and then mayor and board of directors.

### Mayor

C. Ray Baker

### Board of Directors

Steve Tyler, Ward 1

André Good, Ward 2

Don Hutchings, Ward 3

Bill Maddox, Ward 4

Gary Campbell, At Large,

Position 5

Kevin Settle, At Large,

Position 6

Dr. Cole Goodman, At Large,

Position 7

### City Administrator

Dennis Kelly



The public is invited to all meetings. At regular meetings, the public may comment on agenda items and may introduce items involving city government not listed on the agenda.

## Citizens Academies Seeking Applicants

Fort Smithians and people who work in Fort Smith have 3 unique opportunities to see the inner workings of municipal government. The citizens academy, citizens police academy and citizens fire academy offer a backstage pass to many facets of services provided by the City of Fort Smith. All of the academies are accepting applications for spring classes. Applications are due by February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Each academy is 8-11 weeks long. Information describing weekly sessions, meeting dates and applications are available on the city's web site at [www.fortsmithar.gov](http://www.fortsmithar.gov). Click on government, and then citizens academies. Or, you can call the city administrator's office at 784-2201 for more information.



## Roar with the Lions at Fort Smith Night

The University of Arkansas Fort Smith will be hosting *Fort Smith Night* at the Lions and Lady Lions basketball games on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Fort Smith families will be given REDUCED admission to that evening's games when presenting the coupon included. Adult admission will be \$4, children 12-17 will be \$2, and children under 12 will be admitted free.

Lions basketball is played in the spacious Stubblefield Center located

at the corner of Waldron Rd. and Kinkead Ave. The women's contest begins at 6 p.m. and the men's game tips off at 8 p.m. The UA Fort Smith teams will be playing Carl Albert State College from Poteau, Okla.

The City of Fort Smith will have numerous interactive displays throughout the Stubblefield Center's concourse. Information and fun activities from the police, fire, utilities, sanitation, transit, parks and other departments will be available.



## Fort Smith Night at UAFS Basketball

Monday, February 2, 2009

6 & 8 p.m. tip offs

Stubblefield Center

Waldron Rd. @  
Kinkead Ave.

\$2 off each  
admission with *this*  
coupon. Children under  
12 FREE.



## 2-1-1 Connects Citizens With Services

Finding a variety of social services and volunteer opportunities anywhere in Arkansas is as simple as dialing 2-1-1. When you dial this 3-digit telephone number, your call will be answered by trained staff 24/7 who can help you locate local providers of various social services for everyday needs and in times of crisis.

2-1-1 makes it much easier to link citizens who need help with agencies who can provide help. The 2-1-1 service is managed by the United Ways of Arkansas.

Dial 2-1-1 any time to find services and help such as

Medicaid and Medicare, ARKids First, pregnancy services, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention

- ❖ Employment support, job training, transportation assistance
- ❖ Support for elderly and disabled residents such as day care, meals on wheels and home health care
- ❖ Support for children, youth and families such as childcare, after school programs, Head Start, summer camps, mentoring, tutoring and protective services

More information is available on the Internet at [www.arkansas211.org](http://www.arkansas211.org).

- ❖ Food and clothing banks
- ❖ Rent and utility assistance
- ❖ Physical and mental health resources such as medical and dental clinics,

## Grins



Grins to citizens who check on the elderly to ensure they have heat in their homes during the remaining weeks of colder weather.

*"Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or to lose."*

*...Lyndon B. Johnson*

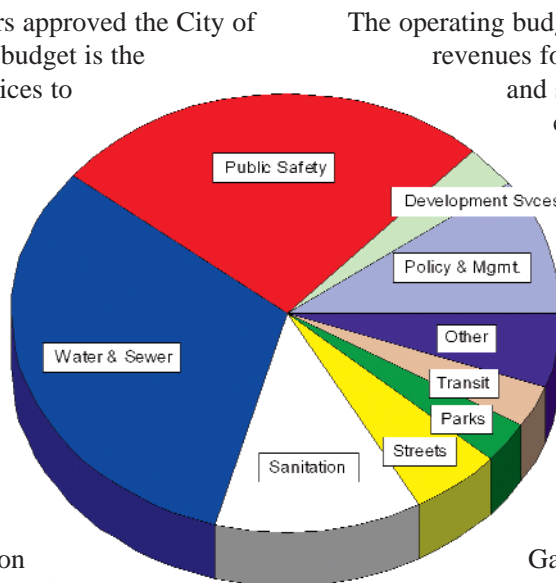


# 2009 BUDGET PROVIDES FOR SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Last month, the board of directors approved the City of Fort Smith's 2009 budget. The budget is the city's business plan for providing services to residents and businesses.

The 2009 plan totals nearly \$265 million. Of that amount, \$105 million is for day-to-day operating services and \$101 million is for capital improvements such as roadway and water/sewer projects. Significant infrastructure projects include improvements to the sanitary sewer system to alleviate overflows during heavier rains (see related article on page 5) and rehabilitation of the Lake Fort Smith water treatment plant.

The operating budget of \$105 million allows the city to provide a variety of services citizens and businesses value every day.



The operating budget is financed primarily with tax revenues for services such as police, fire, parks and street maintenance; and with user charges for sanitation and water/sewer services. Revenues from the federal and state governments assist with transit services and operation of the convention center.

The operating budget is projected to end 2009 with a balance of 8.9% or 32 days of operating expenses.

A complete copy of Fort Smith's 2009 budget is available at any Fort Smith public library, at the city's finance department, 623 Garrison Ave., suite 512, or online at [www.fortsmithar.gov](http://www.fortsmithar.gov). Click on departments and then finance.

## Pollution Prevention Begins In Your Own Home

The actions you take in your home protect your property and water quality far beyond your neighborhood. Small, irresponsible actions of individual homeowners can combine to cause serious water habitat problems.

Many household products contain toxic ingredients. If used or disposed improperly, products containing harmful ingredients can endanger our health and the environment. Items that are flammable, corrosive or highly toxic should never be poured down the drain, into an open ditch, or into a stormwater inlet.

Automotive products, paints, solvents, pesticides and other hazardous household materials may be disposed at the Fort Smith landfill, 5900 Commerce Rd., free of charge by residents. The landfill is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

Help keep our creeks, rivers and lakes clean by properly disposing your household hazardous chemicals. The fish and aquatic life will thank you.



## WATER & SEWER RATES ADJUSTED

City of Fort Smith water and sewer customers have likely noticed a modest increase in their municipal utility service bills this month. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, a water rate adjustment of 3% and a sewer rate adjustment of 5% became effective.

The adjustments were necessary to cover increases in operating expenses such as chemicals and fuel. Both of these commodities have seen double-digit increases in the last year.

Labor costs have also increased.

Those who receive sanitation service from the City of Fort Smith won't see any increase in their rates for 2009. Sanitation rates were last adjusted in July, 2007.

Rate adjustments are never a popular topic. The adjustments effective earlier this month will allow the city to continue providing high quality and reliable water and sewer services to Fort Smithians.

## Fast Facts About



Fort Smith transit drives more than 40,000 miles a month providing rides to nearly 15,000 passengers

# Sewer Construction Work Continues

The City of Fort Smith currently has more than \$70 million in construction work underway on its sanitary sewer system. The work will reduce the occurrence of sewer backups and overflows during periods of heavier rainfalls. The backups cause damage to residences and businesses, and the overflows result in untreated sewage reaching local streams and the Arkansas River.

The backups and overflows are caused by the age and condition of Fort Smith's sanitary sewer collection system. Some parts of the system were built more than 100 years ago. The deterioration of the pipes and manholes over time allows stormwater and groundwater to enter the system during periods of rainfall. These excess flows overwhelm the collection and treatment systems, thereby causing backups and overflows.

The construction work is aimed to handle the problems in 3 ways.

- First, repairs are made to sewer collection system pipes and manholes with significant defects. This will prevent some of the stormwater and groundwater from entering the collection system. However, it's not cost effective to eliminate all extraneous water from entering the sanitary sewer collection system.
- Remaining excess flows in the collection system are transported to storage basins where they're first treated and then held for 1-2 days until the treatment plants can accommodate the flows. One such storage basin is currently under construction at the east end of Grand Ave. near the Arkansas River. A second basin is planned for the vicinity of Jenny Lind Rd. and Zero St.

- Finally, an expansion of the P Street wastewater treatment plant is underway. The expansion will allow for proper treatment of excess flows before being discharged to the Arkansas River.



The cost of the currently-known wet weather improvements is \$150 million. Work began in 2006 and is expected to be completed in 2014. Thereafter, the city will need to undertake regular repairs to the sanitary sewer system so that the cycle of disrepair isn't repeated.

The work is being financed with a combination of sales tax bonds and revenue from sewer rates. In 2006, voters overwhelmingly approved the issuance of \$63 million in sales tax bonds for this work. Those funds have financed the work thus far, but are expected to be depleted by late 2009. To continue the work, the city anticipates issuing sewer revenue bonds that will be supported by a sewer rate adjustment later in 2009.

Fort Smith has been plagued by sanitary sewer problems for many years. The construction work currently underway and to be undertaken over the next 6 years will lessen damage caused by sewer backups and overflows and will help Fort Smith protect the water quality of its creeks and the Arkansas River.



## Board Approves Street and Drainage Budget

The board of directors approved a \$138 million 5-year plan for street, bridge and drainage improvements last fall. Authorization was given to proceed with implementation of the 2009 projects.

The plan is financed with the 1¢ sales tax pledged for streets, bridges and associated drainage and with federal grant funds. The sales tax was first approved by voters in 1985 and overwhelmingly re-approved in 1995 and in 2005. The penny sales tax generates \$20 million annually.

The 2009 projects total \$37.4 million. Significant projects include nearly \$7 million for overlaying 11½ miles of neighborhood streets, \$6.3 million to overlay and reconstruct Greenwood Ave. between Midland Blvd. and Country Club Ave., \$3.5 million to reconstruct and widen Texas Rd. south of Cavanaugh Rd., and \$3.0 million for Mill Creek drainage improvements in the vicinity of South 28<sup>th</sup> St. and Cavanaugh Rd.

A complete list of 2009 projects and the 5-year plan may be found on the city's web site at [www.fortsmithar.gov](http://www.fortsmithar.gov). Click on departments and then engineering. Residents with suggestions for future roadway or drainage projects may contact the Fort Smith engineering department by e-mail at [engineering@fortsmithar.gov](mailto:engineering@fortsmithar.gov) or by calling 784-2225.



# Helping is Important in our Community

## FORT SMITH NAMED AN ARKANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

Fort Smith was named one of 12 Arkansas volunteer communities of the year for 2008. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> time and the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year Fort Smith received the volunteerism award.

The award recognizes the more than 570,000 hours volunteered by 6,508 Fort Smithians in more than 300 volunteer activities. Mayor **Ray Baker** recently accepted the award at the Arkansas Municipal League's convention.

If you'd like to become involved in a richly rewarding experience, contact your favorite service agency, any school or church, any hospital, the United Way at 782-1311, Project Compassion at 783-2273 or RSVP (retired senior volunteer program) at 783-4155. Your time and talents will help make *Life Worth Living in Fort Smith!*

## "GOOD NEIGHBORS DAY"....help someone in need on April 18<sup>th</sup>

Do you need help with minor repairs or yard clean up around your home? The City of Fort Smith is looking for projects for *Good Neighbors Day* scheduled for Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. *Good Neighbors Day* matches volunteers with families who need assistance with yard cleanup, painting, and minor home repair projects. Many times, project materials are provided free of charge for families who meet income eligibility guidelines.

If you have a project that can be completed in a day or would like to volunteer for *Good Neighbors Day*, please contact the Fort Smith planning dept. at 784-2216 or by e-mail at [planning@fortsmithar.gov](mailto:planning@fortsmithar.gov).



## Bring Your Special Date to the Father Daughter Dance



Fort Smith's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual father and daughter dance will be hosted

by the parks and recreation dept. on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. The special evening for dads and their daughters begins at 7 p.m. in the River Park Pavilion, 100 North B St. Make it a more special evening by having dinner at a downtown Fort Smith restaurant before the dance.

Fathers and daughters of all ages are welcome to attend.

What a perfect time to treat your daughter to a special night out! MS Soundworks will be spinning the tunes, so be ready to limbo and slide. Dress for the evening is semi-formal: dads in jackets and ties, and ladies in dresses. Admission includes a photo of each couple and refreshments.

Tickets are \$20 per couple and \$10 for each additional daughter. Stop by the Creekmore Park community center or call 784-2368 to purchase your tickets. The event is limited to the first 100 daddy/daughter duos.



*Life is like a game of tennis.  
The player who serves well  
seldom loses.*



### Good Community Living Tip

Furniture designed for indoor use shouldn't be placed for outdoor use. Upholstery and other similar materials aren't intended to weather the elements. Left on a porch or in view of others, indoor furniture can quickly deteriorate and give the neighborhood an unsightly appearance.

*Good community living tips are offered  
to help improve everyone's quality of  
life in Fort Smith.*



# History Found Throughout the City

## *HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION*

The residents of the May-Lecta-Sweet neighborhood have always known that their neighborhood has historic charm and character. Now the rest of the country knows.

In July, the May-Lecta-Sweet neighborhood was listed in the National Register of Historic Places - the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. The neighborhood encompasses 130 homes and businesses between Kinkead Avenue, Sweet Avenue, Rogers Avenue, and May Avenue.

The neighborhood is significant for its historic architecture, which includes several high-style homes, such as Queen Anne, built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and a large collection of Craftsman and Colonial Revival homes built in the 1920's through the 1940's. Nine out of 10 homes in the May-Lecta-Sweet neighborhood have retained their historic values and are listed as "contributing structures." After many decades, the neighborhood has managed to maintain a historic

ambience with its homes and tree-lined streets.

Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Owners of properties listed in the National Register may be eligible for a 20% investment tax credit for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing certified historic structures such as commercial, industrial, or rental residential buildings.

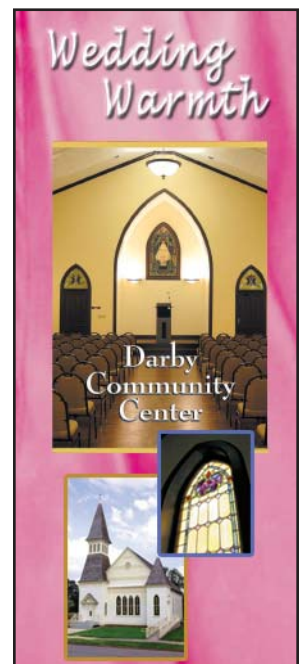
For further information, contact The Fort Smith planning dept. at 784-2216 or by e-mail at [planning@fortsmithar.gov](mailto:planning@fortsmithar.gov).

## *BEGIN WEDDED LIFE IN HISTORY*

Fort Smith parks and recreation offers a warm, intimate, and historic setting for small to medium sized weddings. The Darby Community Center, located at North 7<sup>th</sup> and C Sts., is a restored church in the Belle Grove Historic District.

Built in 1886, the former First Christian Church is the oldest surviving church structure in Fort Smith. The Victorian-era building is defined by stained-glass windows, a steeply pitched roof, dual spires and decorative fishscale shingles.

The center can accommodate up to 100 persons for a wedding and reception. Rental rates are very affordable for this unique venue that brings 19<sup>th</sup> Century charm to your special day. More information and photos are available on the Internet at [www.fortsmithparks.com](http://www.fortsmithparks.com). To schedule an inside look at the Darby Community Center, call Fort Smith parks and recreation at 784-2368.



## *Drive Friendly and Safely Tip*

The next few weeks may surprise us with wet and possibly icy road conditions. These road surfaces can cause skids even to the most cautious drivers. If your car does skid, remember not to slam on the brakes. Do not pump the brakes if you have an anti lock braking system. Instead, apply firm, steady pressure to the brakes and steer the car in the direction of the skid.

*Drive friendly tips are offered by the Fort Smith police dept. and street & traffic control dept. to help the flow of traffic.*

# New Residential Parking Requirements Preserve City of Neighborhoods

The board of directors adopted 3 new residential parking ordinances which strengthen the residential quality of Fort Smith's neighborhoods. Two of the ordinances went into effect last fall. The parking in yards ordinance became effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. Highlights of the three ordinances include.

## Parking in Yards

Applies to all vehicles, at all one and two family dwellings.

- \* No more than 6 vehicles can be parked in the front yard and corner lot side yard. Any additional vehicles must be parked in the back yard, which must be screened with a privacy fence.
- \* Vehicles parked in the front yard and corner lot side yard must be on a hard surface such as concrete, asphalt, or brick pavers. Only 1 vehicle can be regularly parked on a grassy area, which must be adjacent to a hard surfaced area. A household visitor can park on the grass for up to 7 consecutive days.
- \* Existing gravel parking areas, if properly maintained, can continue to be used and expanded for vehicle parking.
- \* Building permits are required for the construction of any new parking areas.

## Commercial Vehicles

- \* Commercial vehicles can't be parked on any residential street or property that is residentially zoned or developed.
- \* Applies to all heavy construction equipment, tractor/trailer combinations, dump trucks, garbage trucks, any vehicle with 3 or more axles, any commercial vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 16,000 pounds or more, and any vehicle that transports 16 or more passengers.

## Recreational and Utility Vehicles

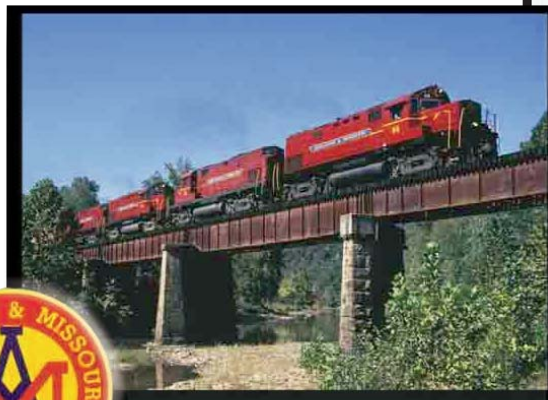
- \* RV and utility vehicles can't be parked on any residential street, right-of-way, front yard, or corner lot side yard for more than 4 consecutive days.
- \* Applies to travel trailers, motor homes, truck campers, horse trailers, boat trailers, and utility trailers and similar vehicles.

Citizens needing more information or who would like to report a violation may visit [mycityservices.net](http://mycityservices.net) on the Internet or contact the Fort Smith neighborhood services staff by e-mailing [neighborhoodservices@fortsmithar.gov](mailto:neighborhoodservices@fortsmithar.gov) or by calling 784-1025.

## A & M Railroad Offers A Memorable Trip

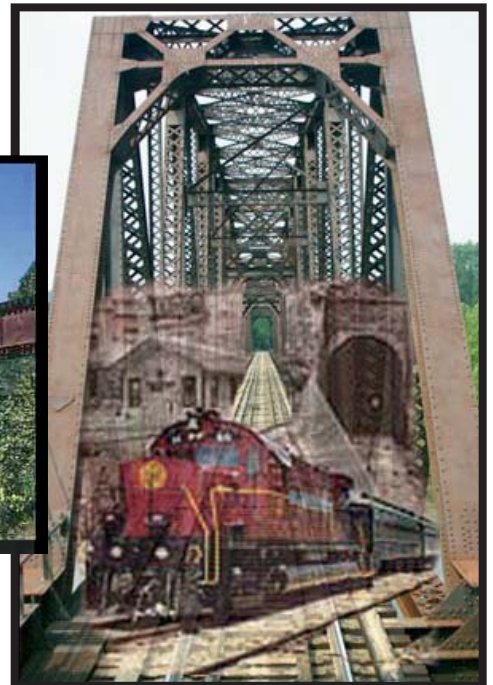
You can experience a window seat to history through the Ozark Boston Mountains on an authentic 19<sup>th</sup> Century railroad passenger car operated by the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad. The trip is a scenic adventure that begins with crossing the Arkansas River railroad bridge and culminates with traveling over mountain streams, high trestles and through a mountain tunnel.

The 80 mile Fort Smith to Winslow round trip excursion departs at 11 a.m. on Saturdays through March from the Frisco Depot at the foot of the Garrison Ave. bridge.



First class and up grade seating include lunch and a memory photo. Special pricing is available for seniors and children ages 4 to 12. Children 3 & under ride free when sitting in an adult's lap. Special group discounts are available.

*Blending the New and the Old!*



Visit [www.arkansasmissouri-rr.com](http://www.arkansasmissouri-rr.com) or call 800-687-8600 for information, fares and reservations.



# Convention Center Hosts Wide Variety of Events

To the public eye, it may seem there are days when nothing is happening at the Fort Smith Convention Center. In reality, numerous behind-the-scenes activities are underway at the multi-purpose venue.

Many groups require the facility several days prior to and after their event for set-up and tear-down. An example is the Junior League Holiday Market. This event occupies the convention center for nearly a full week, although their event is open to the public for 3 days.

The convention center staff undertakes many preparations and

logistics to host an event. For example, carpet may have to be laid in the exhibit hall for convention exhibitors, seating risers and a stage erected for a concert, or hundreds of tables and chairs placed for a banquet. During the event, the staff fulfills the client's needs to help make sure the event is a success.

The Fort Smith Convention Center is extremely versatile, and can accommodate your event of almost any size. For booking information, call the center staff at 788-8932.

**In 2008, the Fort Smith Convention Center hosted more than 225 events with over 100,000 people in attendance. Events included:**

- \* concerts of many musical genres
- \* nationally-known comedy acts
- \* the circus
- \* Broadway productions
- \* statewide and regional conventions
- \* corporate shareholder meetings
- \* merchandise shows
- \* high school proms
- \* private family parties
- \* wedding receptions

## Arts To Be Honored By Mayor



Mayor Ray Baker has announced the 18<sup>th</sup> annual mayor's honors for the visual and performing arts will be held on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. The awards will be presented in the Arkansas Best Corporation Theater at the Fort Smith Convention Center.

The mayor's honors for the arts are given each year to 3 individuals and a business who promote the visual or performing arts in Fort Smith. Past honorees have included performers, artists, poets and those who bring the arts to Fort Smith. Five young artist achievement awards will also be presented to young citizens for accomplishments in music, drama and visual arts.

Nomination forms are available at all public libraries, the chamber of commerce, 612 Garrison Ave., by calling the mayor's office at 784-2437, or by e-mailing the mayor's office at [mayor@fortsmithar.gov](mailto:mayor@fortsmithar.gov). Nominations must be received by February 27<sup>th</sup>.



## HOMETOWN HOSPITALITY HEROES

Fort Smith and our region benefit tremendously from conventions and events brought to our area. Attracting these happenings relies on the efforts of everyone in the hospitality industry. However, some of the best leads come from local citizens.

The newest hometown hospitality heroes are **Gary & Jo Ann Campbell**. The City of Fort Smith at large director and his wife brought 40 mayors and leading council members from 19 states to Fort Smith for 3 days last September for a meeting of the National League of Cities community and economic development steering committee. Bringing governmental leaders from many larger metropolitan areas to Fort Smith showcased our region to these opinion shapers. On behalf of Fort Smith's hospitality industry, *THE FOCUS* thanks Gary & Jo Ann Campbell for bringing these municipal leaders to our area.



Contact the Fort Smith convention and visitors bureau to see how you and your group can be recognized as a Fort Smith hometown hospitality hero. Call Ramona Moon at 783-8888.

# GUESS WHO'S COMING TO TOWN

*The coldness of winter doesn't freeze construction activity in Fort Smith.  
Here's a list of significant new construction activity from the  
Fort Smith building division.*

<b>The Woods at Chaffee Crossing</b> residential subdivision	Massard Rd. at Zero St.	Ongoing
<b>Hilton Homewood Suites</b>	7300 Phoenix Ave.	Mar., 2009
<b>Central Christian Church</b> worship center	400 N. Waldron Rd.	Spring, 2009
<b>Pizza Warehouse</b>	4900 Rogers Ave.	Spring, 2009
<b>Wingstop Restaurant</b>	8624 Rogers Ave.	Spring, 2009
<b>Second Street Live</b> performing theater	101 North 2nd St.	Spring, 2009
<b>Albert Pike Elementary</b> <i>School addition</i>	4111 Park Ave.	Spring, 2009
<b>Cisterna Woods</b> residential subdivision	Chaffee Crossing along Massard Road	Ongoing
<b>River Valley Musculoskeletal</b> hospital addition	3601 W.E. Knight Dr.	Spring, 2009
<b>Mars PetCare</b> manufacturing plant	10000 Roberts Blvd.	Spring, 2009
<b>River Valley Pediatric Dentistry</b>	3421 Old Greenwood Rd.	Spring, 2009
<b>First National Bank</b>	800 Phoenix Ave.	Spring, 2009
<b>Willowbrook</b> residential subdivision	Brooken Hill Dr. at Hwy. 253	Ongoing
<b>Longhorn Steak House</b>	7110 Rogers Ave.	Spring, 2009
<b>McDonald's</b> restaurant	5712 Kelley Hwy.	Spring, 2009
<b>Whole Hog Cafe</b>	4501 Burrough Rd.	Spring, 2009
<b>Clark Family Chiropractic</b> <i>Center</i>	8000 Dallas St.	Summer, 2009
<b>Ligon Dental Clinic</b>	8020 Dallas St.	Summer, 2009
<b>Best Western Hotel</b>	6500 Rogers Ave.	Summer, 2009
<b>Umarex USA</b> , manufacturing and distribution center	7700 Chad Colley Blvd.	Winter, 2009

## A WALK IN THE PARK



**N**ext month begins the Fort Smith parks & recreation department's *Walk in the Park* program. Walk to get fit, and track your miles to earn rewards. Special weekly walks with the recreation supervisor will be available. Learn more about this healthy lifestyle program by calling 785-4225 or log on to [www.fortsmithparks.com](http://www.fortsmithparks.com).



## NOTES

*FOCUS ON FORT SMITH* is circulated quarterly to all residences and businesses in the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas. Please address all correspondence to:

*THE FOCUS*  
City of Fort Smith  
P.O. Box 1908  
Fort Smith, AR 72902  
or

[focus@fortsmithar.gov](mailto:focus@fortsmithar.gov)

Ray Gosack & Barbara Chatham,  
Editors  
Cindy Remler, Associate Editor

To place an advertisement  
in *THE FOCUS*,  
call 784-2201.

Printed and mailed by  
*Calvert McBride*



# Entertainment Calendar

Theater, concerts and other entertainment choices abound in Fort Smith. Here's a line up of toe-tapping, artistic and comedy events.

<i>Lipizzaner Stallions</i>	Jan. 30	See these world-famous horses of battle and ballet perform their equestrian art at the Fort Smith Convention Center. Tickets at Atwoods, by calling 1-800-362-3247 or on the Internet at <a href="http://www.tickets.com">www.tickets.com</a>
<i>Everybuddy's All American</i>	Jan. 31	Join the Fort Smith Symphony for a concert celebration featuring musical Americana from Sousa to Rodgers and Hammerstein. Fort Smith Convention Center. Tickets at 452-7575 or <a href="http://www.fortsmithsymphony.org">www.fortsmithsymphony.org</a> .
<i>13th Annual Burns Night Supper</i>	Feb. 7	The Scottish Club of Fort Smith hosts its traditional Burns Night Supper featuring the Ozark Highlanders pipes and drums band, the McCafferty School of Irish Dancers and the Tulsa Celtic band, Cairde Na Gael. Admission: \$24. 478-0156 for tickets by Jan. 31st. Advance sales only.
<i>Movin' Out</i>	Feb. 11	UA Fort Smith presents this Billy Joel-inspired musical with tornado-driven dancers and raucous rock musicians. Fort Smith Convention Center. 788-7300 or <a href="http://www.uafortsmith.edu">www.uafortsmith.edu</a> for tickets.
<i>Terrance Simien</i>	Feb. 11	Second Street Live presents Grammy-winning Terrance Simien and his Zydeco Experience at the Fort Smith Events Center. 782-5483 or <a href="http://www.secondstreetlive.com">www.secondstreetlive.com</a> for info and tickets.
<i>Who's in Bed with the Butler</i>	Feb. 12 - 21	Join the Fort Smith Little Theater for this comedy about the fate of a billionaire's estate. Tickets at 783-2966 or <a href="http://www.fslt.org">www.fslt.org</a> .
<i>Esperanza Spalding</i>	Mar. 2	Enjoy this incredible young jazz artist at the Fort Smith Events Center. Presented by Second Street Live. 782-5483 or <a href="http://www.secondstreetlive.com">www.secondstreetlive.com</a> for info and tickets
<i>St. Patrick's Parade</i>	Mar. 14	Garrison Ave. transforms into a sea of green for the Irish and those who feel Irish. Parade steps off at 2 p.m.
<i>Dirty Rotten Scoundrels</i>	Mar. 16	Set on the glorious, glamorous Riviera, this musical comedy follows 2 con artists as they take on the lifestyles of the rich and shameless. Fort Smith Convention Center. 788-7300 or <a href="http://www.uafortsmith.edu">www.uafortsmith.edu</a> for tickets.
<i>Cirque Mechanics Birdhouse Factory</i>	Apr. 1	Circus acrobatics and early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century machines come together to tell a story of laughter, love, flight, loss and birdhouses. Fort Smith Convention Center. 788-7300 or <a href="http://www.uafortsmith.edu">www.uafortsmith.edu</a> for tickets.
<i>The Elders</i>	Apr. 9	Join this big band performance from Celtic roots to rock-n-roll with great storytelling, Fort Smith Events Center. 782-5483 or <a href="http://www.secondstreetlive.com">www.secondstreetlive.com</a> for info and tickets.
<i>UA Fort Smith Jazz Band</i>	Apr. 9	UAFS presents its spring jazz band concert at the Fort Smith Convention Center. 788-7300 or <a href="http://www.uafortsmith.edu">www.uafortsmith.edu</a> for tickets.
<i>Mayor's Easter Egg Hunt</i>	Apr. 11	Children ages 1-10 are invited to join the hunt for the Easter bunny's springtime goodies at Tilles Park, 3700 Grand Ave., 1 p.m. Other activities begin at 11 a.m.
<i>The Glass Menagerie</i>	Apr. 16 - 25	Join the Fort Smith Little Theater for this Tennessee Williams drama of great tenderness, charm and beauty. Tickets at 783-2966 or <a href="http://www.fslt.org">www.fslt.org</a> .
<i>Cinderella</i>	Apr. 19	Presented by the Western Arkansas Ballet at the Fort Smith Convention Center. Tickets and info at 785-0152.



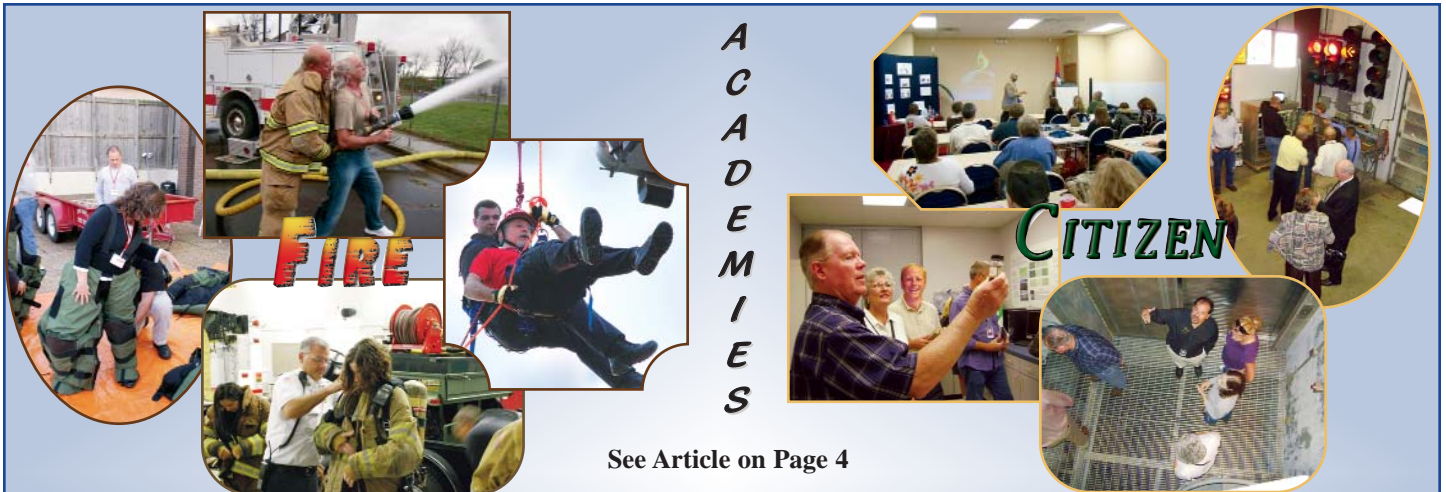
## What's Inside

Rapid Alerts Keep Citizens Informed.....	1
Citizens Academies Need You!.....	2
Budget Allocates Resources for Public's Benefit.....	4 & 5
Volunteerism Rewarded.....	6
May-Lecta-Sweet Neighborhood Added to National Register.....	7
City of Neighborhoods Gets Boost.....	8
Construction Activity Doesn't Feel Winter Chill.....	10



City of Fort Smith  
P. O. Box 1908  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72902  
[www.fortsmithar.gov](http://www.fortsmithar.gov)

**PRSRT-STD**  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
FORT SMITH, AR  
PERMIT NO. 2



See Article on Page 4

"Over the course of 10 weekly evening classes, you'll meet a wide range of the people who work for you in city government. You'll learn what they do, how and why they do it, and what you can do to help.

But there are also several side benefits. Each class of about 20 students is a cross-section of people from all over Fort Smith, so it's a great opportunity to move beyond your regular social circle and to better understand the points of view of folks of all ages, races and neighborhoods.

The course will inspire you to get off the couch and get involved for the betterment of not only your life, but for the lives of all of our residents."

*Scott Monroe, recent graduate of citizens academy*

